

Parks Committee Minutes  
Jefferson County  
Jefferson County Courthouse  
311 S. Center Avenue, Room 202  
Jefferson, WI 53549

Date: Monday, February 6, 2017

Time: 9:30 a.m.

1. **Call to order**

Tietz called the meeting to order at 9:30am

2. **Roll call (establish a quorum)**

Present: Tietz, Foelker, Kelly, Nass, Payne (@9:40am)

Absent: Nass

Others present: Nehmer, Nimm, Hutter, Wiesmann, Wehmeier, Ward

3. **Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law**

Meeting was posted according to law.

4. **Approval of the agenda**

Agenda approved as written

5. **Approval of Park Committee minutes for December 12, 2016**

Foelker motioned to approve the minutes. Kelly seconded. Motion passes 3/0.

6. **Communications**

Nehmer reviewed communications.

7. **Public comment (Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time)**

No public comment.

8. **Discussion and Possible Action on Amending the Jefferson County Parks Ordinance to:**

- a. **Limit use of Non-Motorized Vehicles on Park Trails and Prohibit Hiking or Dog Walking on Designated Cross-Country Ski-Trails;**
- b. **Allow Foraging in County Parks; and**
- c. **Allow Parks Director to Assign a Designee to Issue Citations**

Nehmer – A. noted that in J. Crave has brought it to our attention that fat bikes & mountain bikes are riding the trails at Garman Nature Preserve. Nehmer noted that the Parks Ordinance doesn't clearly address bike use in the park and that the parks not intended for biking. Biking is allowed at the Glacial River Trail Mountain Bike Park and Carnes east when winter conditions allow. This new ordinance limits cycling to designated places where bikes are most appropriate.

Nehmer – B. stated that we previously discussed foraging in the County Parks. The proposed ordinance is modeled after the WIDNR ordinance.

Nehmer – C. noted that he would anticipate starting with K. Wiesmann as the designee to issue citations and possibly other full-time staff could issue citations.

Nass motioned to accept the proposed ordinances changes. Payne seconded. Motion passes 5/0.

Kelly – need to sign designated bicycle trails to avoid confusion.

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Annual Outdoor Recreation Aids Grant 2017-2018 WI DNR Snowmobile Trail**

Nehmer – stated this is for the snowmobile program which runs 12/1/17-3/31/18 and that we are required to do a resolution on an annual basis.

Foelker motioned to accept the resolution on the annual outdoor recreation aids grant. Nass seconded. Motion passes

5/0.

**10. Discussion and Possible Action on the installation of a controlled dusk to dawn gate at Carnes East and ownership of Jones Lane as it pertains to the Town of Jefferson**

Ward – stated that Dorothy Carnes Park is accessed by Jones lane. Jones Lane is a public road owned by the Town of Jefferson. He stated that access gates could keep people out of the park after hours and that we can't put gate on a public road and/or block a public road. The County has to petition the Township to vacate the road so the county could accept title to Jones Lane.

Wiesmann – noted that he had to talk to adjoining property owners and that the County has been maintaining the road.

Nass motioned to accept the road after review of survey. Payne seconded. Motion passes 5/0.

Foelker – questioned the gate expenses.

Wiesmann – stated the expenses are approx. \$12,000.

**11. Discussion and Possible Action on entering into a Lease with the WIDNR for Management of the Palmyra Environmental Learning Center**

Nehmer – noted that just east of village of Palmyra is the Palmyra Environmental Learning Center. The center is operated by Milwaukee School of Recreation. The department received a phone call asking if Jefferson County might be interested in taking over the lease. On site there are older buildings, vault restroom, well, walking trails, Ice age trail. Milwaukee School of Recreation is in partnership at Lapham Peak State Park, not Palmyra.

Tietz – questioned the departments plan for the learning center and asked if the maintenance is performed by the WIDNR.

Nass – questioned if there are any opportunity to co-operate with local school districts.

Nehmer – JC would have to run and operate and pay for expenses.

Kelly – noted that he doesn't see a fit for the department and that hopefully they could find a party more suited to operate than us.

Wiesmann – stated the inability to see how he would be able to work this into the current staff capacity.

Wehmeier – stated that we could see if schools would have an interest and perform analysis of cost utilities.

Tietz – noted that Jefferson County has been trying to get that part of the county as part of our Parks system.

Fuller – Friends can discuss at their next meeting.

Nehmer – there could be a meeting of the Friends of GHA and the Friends of Ice Age Trail and the Palmyra-Eagle school super intendent as well as Walworth and Waukesha.

Kelly – assist DNR to find a use.

Tietz – stated that the committee should take a look at the site and review possibilities.

**12. Discussion and Possible Action on Professional Services for the Interurban Trail Project**

Nehmer – stated that he met with the County Administrator. He noted that we are receiving assistance from David Schroeder @ Baker-Rullman MFG. Entertaining scope of services from Westbrook. Entered into agreement to have Westbrook to perform a structural testament of concrete caissons at the west crossing (east of Watertown) of the Rock River and the Interurban Trail. Analysis will determine if existing substructure is “structurally sound.”

Wehmeier – will do survey work in-house. This is a ‘cost not to exceed’ proposal.

Payne – stated the proposal is seemingly “high”.

Tietz – Westbrook is well-known and are specialists in the field.

Wehmeier – testing will indicate potential weight capacity of the caissons.

**13. Discussion and Possible Action on Event Planning for the Grand Opening of the Rock River Trail**

Nehmer – June 3, 2017 is the Grand Opening celebration of Rock River National Water Trail held in Beloit with hopes that there will be other celebrations in the 11 counties along the trail.

Wiesmann – stated that he is organizing a paddle with group of volunteers from Jefferson County. The paddle will be a shorter paddle ending in the area where there could be an afternoon picnic, ending at Kanow Park.

**14. Discussion on Vandalism in County Parks**

Wiesmann – noted that there have recently been vandals using explosives in trash cans and vehicles driving over soft ground, tearing up Cappie's landing and Carnes Park.

**15. Discussion on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) –Friends of GHA**

Fuller – meeting scheduled in two weeks. Will discuss many of the Parks Agenda items at the GHA meeting.

**16. Discussion on Payment for Tree Removal on Oxbow Bend**

Nehmer – Flood Mitigation Property on Oxbow Bend. Received tip that a large oak tree had been cut down and the wood was in piles next to the adjacent property. Worked with Ward, communicated with adjacent property owner and requested \$500 fine for removal of the tree without permission. Owner paid and apologized. Owners are now planting trees without permission.

**17. Review of Financial Statements (November 2016) and Department Update – Parks Department**

Nehmer – 2016 close-out is not yet complete. \$390 in commitment on IU. Hoping for \$100k ea from Quirk and Watertown Greater Health Foundation

**18. Adjourn**

Nass motioned to adjourn at 10:52am. Kelly seconded. Motion passes 5/0.

Next scheduled meetings:        March 6, 2017  
    April 3, 2017  
    May 1, 2017  
    June 5, 2017

*A Quorum of any Jefferson County Committee, Board, Commission or other body, including the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, may be present at this meeting.*

*Individuals requiring special accommodations for attendance at this meeting should contact the County Administrator 24 hours prior to the meeting at 920-674-7101 so appropriate arrangements can be made.*